

A PLACE TO  
*Belong*

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

— 1 John 3:1

Heart  for Orphans

2022 IMPACT REPORT



# We all crave a sense of belonging.

And yet, for so many of the orphans we serve, this has not been a reality for them — *until now*. Since our ministry began in 2003, 353 kids have lived in our transition homes, 721 have participated in our Orphanage and Teen Outreach programs and thousands more have been impacted — thanks to your support. Coupled with the love of their house parents, many of these orphans experience a sense of **true belonging** for the very first time, which only deepens as they learn about the love their heavenly Father has for them.

Today, as the war destroys communities across Ukraine, many families find themselves displaced and in search of a new place to call home, *a new place to belong*. That's why we're asking for your support this end-of-year season. The war has created a new need to not only support families in their journey of finding a safe place to call home for the time being... but to also continue to maintain their homes in Ukraine, with the hope that they will be able to return one day. Our house parents need our support more than ever so they can in turn support the orphans they've welcomed into their homes.



## Our impact in Ukraine

Providing **A Place to Belong** amidst war and displacement

For the first time in our organization's history, the war in Ukraine posed a unique challenge — supporting families as they evacuated the country while still maintaining their homes in Ukraine, with hopes of their return one day.

### THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

**9,602**

estimated civilians injured during Russia's invasion of Ukraine as of October 16, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**6,306**

estimated civilian deaths during Russia's invasion of Ukraine as of October 16, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**942**

children killed or injured (16% of whom were under the age of five) between February 24 and August 10.<sup>2</sup>

**7,000,000**

Ukrainian refugees registered outside of Ukraine, as of the end of September. Men between the ages of 18 and 60 have been barred from leaving the country, leading to the separation of many families.<sup>2</sup>

### OUR FAMILIES

**140** number of people still in country we support

**85** number of evacuated people we support

“Our hearts are breaking for the people of Ukraine! However, we have peace of mind in knowing that if we send money, it will get to those that need it. We are so glad to know you at Heart for Orphans because you have years of experience working in Ukraine. We trust you and know that you will get the money to the people that need it most!”

— Pam McGregor, donor



<sup>1</sup> The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Statista Research Department, Oct 17, 2022.  
<sup>2</sup> Update on Forced Displacement around Ukraine, Center for Strategic and International Studies (csis.org), October 3, 2022.



### OUR MISSION

Transforming lives of orphans through the love of God and family.



### OUR VISION

A world where every orphan is loved and impacts the world for Christ.

“At Heart for Orphans, we want these orphans to know that regardless of where they are, they have a place to belong.”

— Nancy Hathaway  
Founder/Director



Will you choose to partner with us this season in giving these youth **A Place to Belong** in the wake of displacement and chaos?



# The Boys on the Border

Dima's story [Mel's House resident]

“ I am the fruit of my house parents' labor, and I am the fruit of your labor at Heart for Orphans! ”

-Dima



Early in the morning of February 24, Housemother Tonya came into our room and told us to wake up — **the war had started**. We were stunned. We didn't know what to do. **Imagine having all these plans and dreams for the future... all gone within seconds.**

After two days of hiding in the root cellar and listening to the sirens outside, our house parents decided we needed to leave our city quickly. All the kids piled into our bus, and we drove for days. Sirens were wailing, traffic was terrible and we even passed through areas of shelling. After several days of travel, we finally reached the border.

Devastatingly, we were told that the five boys over the age of 18, myself included,

could not cross with the rest of the family. This was confusing to us. This crazy war was happening, and we could not go with our parents? *It did not make sense.*

We did not want to let our houseparents Tonya and Vova go! They stayed with us for nine weeks writing and calling different government offices to see if an exception could be made. They did not want to leave us behind, and they stayed as long as they could. But eventually, they had to leave.

**However, during those nine weeks, God began to work in our hearts.**

Looking back, we realize if they had left us right away, we would have felt betrayed. But, when we gave it over to the Lord, we saw that God had a safe place for them... and for us. We began to trust God more than ever.

The Ukrainian city where we live now is quite different from our home. It is crowded. Our living arrangement forces us to work closely together (literally) through every circumstance.

But, for the first time, *we truly feel that we are being used by God!* Our prayer life is more fervent. It's no longer lukewarm. Over the summer, we were able to work with kids

at a Christian camp for several days. We are also finding opportunities for discipleship.

**During this horrible war, people have become more open to the gospel.**

This past August, I was baptized. On that day, I felt such peace knowing that I had 100% made the right decision! **I thought of Tonya and Vova a lot that day.** I remember things they taught us. I remembered the stories they shared about all the kids that had once lived in Mel's House — specifically, the stories of the ones that were baptized. I realized that I had become a part of that group and I felt honored!

Now, Tonya and Vova can see the results of their hard work through me.

# 2022 Highlights

Although our work in Ukraine has been extremely challenging this year, we also continued to operate our Christ-centered homes and programs to orphaned teens in Kenya and Belarus. We invite you to celebrate these organizational milestones with us!

## Since Heart for Orphans began 20 years ago...

**6,000+**

orphans have been impacted, many of whom are now grown with their own families!

**721**

kids have participated in the Orphanage and Teen Outreach programs, from 10 orphanages and 3 trade schools

**353**

teens have been discipled in our Transition Homes (they lived in our homes 1-5 yrs)

“I know so many refugees that have nobody supporting them. Although it has been hard, we’ve not had to worry about our needs being met! I don’t know where we would be if it weren’t for you! — **Natasha, house parent**”

## In 2022...

**45**

kids were ministered to in our Outreach Programs

**51**

orphans were discipled in our Transition Homes

- ▶ We completed our **Life Skills Curriculum**, a series of 13 educational videos and interactive activities around making healthy life choices. This tool equips our house parents to teach the orphans in their care how the choices they make affect their mind, body and soul.
- ▶ We finished building our new **“Kind Shepherd House,”** and the Belarus family moved in. With 2,500 more square feet, they can now accommodate more children!
- ▶ In Kenya, we sent **nine kids to Boarding School** and **two to Bible College!** It was an amazing opportunity for our orphans since school is a privilege in Kenya and is costly.
- ▶ For Ukraine, we raised more than **\$152,000** to evacuate families, house and feed refugees and provide humanitarian aid. Thank you for your generosity!



## Your gift this year is giving orphans **A Place to Belong.**

**Our end-of-year fundraising goal: \$100,000**

*By December 31, 2022*

Between now and the end of the year, we’re asking **100 donors** to step out in faith and help us raise our ambitious goal of **\$100,000**. Your gift will give orphans in Ukraine and across the globe a place to belong and a chance to persevere.

## Your gift of any amount will support our work in four key areas:

1. Support our humanitarian aid efforts in Ukraine (includes food, toiletries and medicine)

**GOAL ▶ \$12,000**

2. Maintain four homes in Ukraine for the day our families can safely return

**GOAL ▶ \$15,000**

3. Cover household and education costs in our Kenya and Belarus homes for 16 orphans

**GOAL ▶ \$23,000**

4. Support our four evacuated families and five boys on the border through food and shelter

**GOAL ▶ \$50,000**



A generous donor has agreed to match donations up to \$30,000! That means every dollar you give between now and December 31 will have **double the impact.**



Scan this QR code to give today. Or visit [heartfororphans.com/give](https://heartfororphans.com/give)

“Since the war began, the first days were the most terrible for me. There was silence, there was a feeling that all the people left, and I was the only one left in the city. God used Heart for Orphans during peaceful times to show me what family and love look like. And in times of war God allowed me to minister to the people in their time of need.”

— Marina, Graduate, Michael's House

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